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28 JUN 2004

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Your Reference: P/7180
Application No: GB0402786.8

21 June 2004

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(5)

I enclose two copies of my search report and a copy of the citations.

Examination opinion

I also enclose two copies of an examination opinion which indicates certain major points that will be raised if you decide to request substantive examination of your application. If, having considered the search report and the examination opinion, you decide to proceed with this application we ask you to save time by responding to these major points with amendments (or observations) before or when you request substantive examination. If you do not address these points we will re-issue the examination opinion as an examination report for prompt attention, and defer further examination.

Plurality of invention

Your claims define two separate inventions not forming a single inventive concept. The inventions are:

A control system for controlling a safety system of an automobile in response to a calculated velocity

(i) said system comprising a plurality of wheel velocity sensors, a steering angle sensor, a yaw rate sensor, an acceleration sensor, a pitch angle generator/sensor, and a controller, said controller generating a final reference velocity (ie. the calculated velocity) in response to the signals of preferably all the sensors; according to claim 1



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(ii) said system determining a non-slip longitudinal velocity, determining a slip-related longitudinal velocity and determining a longitudinal velocity(ie. the calculated velocity) in response to the non-slip and slip-related velocity; according to claim 12

You will need to amend your claims, so that they relate to only one invention or inventive concept. You will also need to make consequential amendments to the description. You may wish to consider filing a divisional application. Any such application should normally be filed no later than 3 months before the expiry of the period for putting the present application in order.

Scope of search

In accordance with Section 17(6), only the first of these inventions has been searched. The other invention can be searched if you wish. In this case you will have to file a further Form 9/77.

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all the formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **20 July 2004**. At this time you will receive a letter confirming the exact date when the preparations for publication will be completed. This letter will also tell you the publication number and date of publication of your application.

Withdrawal/amendment

If you wish to withdraw your application before it is published you must do so before the preparations for publication are complete. **WARNING** – after preparations for publication are complete it will NOT be possible to withdraw your application from publication.

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before 20 July 2004 please mark your letter prominently:

"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT".

Yours faithfully

Mr Nithi Nithiananthan
Examiner



Application No: GB0402786.8

Examiner: Mr Nithi Nithiananthan

Claims searched: 1-11

Date of search: 18 June 2004

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular reference
X,P	1 at least	GB2389828 A . (Ford); see esp. pg.13, para.4
X,P	1 at least	GB2388435 A . (Ford);see esp abstract; controller determines lateral velocity dependent on sensor inputs
X,P	1 at least	US2003/0130775 A . (Ford); see esp. abstract; controller determines side slip velocity
X	1 at least	US5471388 A . (Daimler); vehicle yaw angular velocity is determined based on yaw, steering angle, acceleration, and wheel speed
X	1 at least	EP1234741 A . (Ford); see esp. abstract
X	1 at least	US2002/0082749 A . (Brown); see esp. abstract.
X	1 at least	US2001/008986 A . (Brown); see esp. abstract

Categories:

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC^W :

F2F



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Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC⁰⁷

B60T

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report

EPODOC, JAPIO, WPI, TXTUS0, TXTUS1, TXTUS2, TXTUS3, TXTEP1,
TXTGB1, TXTWO1



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Tel : 01633 81 4662
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Patents Act 1977 Examination Opinion

Scope of Invention unclear

1. Claim 1 is unclear in that it mentions a **longitudinal** acceleration sensor, generating a **longitudinal** acceleration signal, however claims that the controller produces the final reference vehicle velocity (partially) in response to the **lateral** acceleration signal. Similarly, the Statement of Invention.

Plurality of invention

2. Your claims define 2 separate inventions not forming a single inventive concept. The inventions have been listed in the letter accompanying the search report.